MAKE YOUR HOUSE "HEAT-TIGHT" FOR WINTER

Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, and Wallace Kadderly, Chief, Radio Service, U. S. D. A. Broadcast in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour Wednesday, October 7, 1942, 12:35-12:40 EWT, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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MITCHELL: Ruth Van Deman and Wallace Kadderly, of the Department of Agriculture have some information for us--a subject that affects all of us--how to keep warm and well this winter in spite of the fuel situation. To hear what they have to say we take you to Washington.

KADDERLY: As everybody knows, America faces a serious fuel problem. Wherever we live, whatever we use to heat our homes -- coal, gas, electricity, wood, or oil -- we've got to save fuel. That's one way we can increase America's fighting power.... now yesterday Ruth -- in speaking of the nation's food supply --you assured us we can "count on the women" to help manage it wisely. I hope the women are just as deeply concerned with the fuel supply.

RUTH VAN DEMAN: I believe they are, Wallace. With a war on, they're getting used to all sorts of new responsibilities. And I think you'd be surprised to know how many women are already checking up on storm windows and weather-stripping, and ways to stop air-leaks in their houses.

KADDERLY: That's the first thing to do -- make the house "heat-tight" against the coming winter. The experts say that in some houses you can reduce the heat loss by as much as 50 percent -- with storm windows and doors, weather-stripping, insulation, and so on.

VAN DEMAN: One thing sure -- we can't afford to heat up "all outdoors" this winter -- with fuel oil being rationed.

KADDERLY: You understand, of course, that there's no shortage of fuel oil.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, the pinch comes in transportation.

KADDERLY: That's it. We can produce all the fuel oil we need, but we don't have the transportation to carry it to all parts of the country where people are used to heating their homes with oil.

VAN DEMAN: And the problem is most serious on the eastern seaboard.

KADDERLY: It starts there. For one thing, the sea-going tankers that used to carry oil from Galveston to Boston -- and from Corpus Christi to New York -- are now sailing south, to Australia.

VAN DEMAN: And north, to Murmansk?

KADDERLY: Those are two of the routes they're traveling these days.

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VAN DEMAN: Well, I'll save fuel any day — to keep the tankers carrying war supplies to Australia and Russia.

KADDERLY: And to keep the machines running, in the war factories.

VAN DEMAN: Absolutely. But in spite of transportation shortage -- and fuel oil rationing — don't you think we'll be able to keep our homes warm enough for health and comfort this winter?

KADDERLY: We will -- if we make our homes weather-tight, convert more oil burners to coal, and cooperate with the rationing plan. You know fuel oil is being rationed now in 30 States -- on the Eastern seaboard and in the Middle West.

VAN DEMAN: So far, only fuel oil is being rationed.

KADDERLY: That's right, but we'd better be as saving as possible with all types of fuel — whether it's oil, gas, coke, electricity, or coal. Now let's go back a minute to the things we can do right now to make the house easier to heat.

VAN DEMAN: It must be pretty hard to give over-all directions, when each house is a separate problem.

KADDERLY: Well, a good many houses have problems in common. For example, if you live in a one-story house, with a large attic floor, you might look into the proposition of insulating that large floor space. If you live in a house with a great many windows and doors, see about installing storm windows and doors.

VAN DEMAN: If you can't afford storm windows and doors all over the hours, how about putting them on the rooms you intend to live in this winter?

KADDERLY: Yes, that's a good idea -- and put storm windows and doors on the rooms that face prevailing winter winds. Also, you might investigate weather-stripping.

VAN DEMAN: Isn't that a rather simple bit of carpentry?

KADDERLY: If you're handy with tools -- yes. If you do the work yourself, use felt -- or wood, — or simple metal stripping. Tack it tight — between the window (or door) and the frame. Now if you're going to use elaborate metal stripping, better call in a professional.

VAN DEMAN: And have the job done right. I see you don't have complete faith in women as carpenters.

KADDERLY: Well, getting a house made heat-tight is a long-time investment, and you want the job done right.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, of course. Now here's a problem. What are we going to do with the "Fresh air" folks. I mean the people who swear they never sleep a wink, without all the windows open — and a polar wind tearing through the whole house.

KADDERLY: Tell 'em to live in a tent — right out in the elements.

VAN DEMAN: Wouldn't that be a bit -- harsh?

KADDERLY: Well, maybe so. If they must have all the bedroom windows open, they can shut the doors tight, put a rug or blanket in front of the door — and of course turn off all the heat in the room.

VAN DEMAN: One thing more. In war time, when we're trying to save fuel — the daytime room temperature — recommended for grown-ups in good health — is not the usual 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

KADDERLY: No, it's 65 degrees. That is, for normal adults, in good health. Reducing the temperature from 72 to 65 may save as much as one-fifth of the winter's fuel needs. At night, the temperature may be reduced even more. Make it 55 or 60 degrees - and save even more fuel.

VAN DEMAN: We'll have extra covers handy, for extra cold nights. Wallace, we'd better keep ourselves well informed, about the fuel situation. My guess is we'll have plenty of questions to answer the next time we have a session on how to save fuel - and at the same time keep warm and well.

KADDERLY: All right, Ruth, we'll try to know the answers. But the main thing to remember now is to check your house to see that it's "heat-tight", and check your heating plant, and where possible have oil burners converted to coal burners.

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